MUSKHAM MAGAZINE March 2025



The Muskham Magazine is produced on behalf of:

The Methodist Church, North Muskham; St Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham; and

St Wilfrid's Church, South Muskham and financial support from North Muskham and South Muskham and Little Carlton Parish Councils

Church of England

Enquiries about arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals in the North and South Muskham Church of England Churches should be made to the Church Wardens

Church Wardens – those generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Church

South Muskham David Watson 01636 707248

Jenn Pell 01636 701978

North Muskham Ann Willey 01636 605477

More info: www.riversideparishes.co.uk www.facebook.com/riversidemessy

Methodist Church

Enquiries about arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals in the Methodist Church should be made with Revd. Peter Hibberts. Email: peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk Tel: 01636 812166.

Articles for possible inclusion in this magazine should be emailed (in Microsoft Word format) to: muskhammagazine@yahoo.com
Copy required by Thursday 20th March for the April 2025 edition.







across Nottinghamshire





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Copy required by 20th March 2025.





Did you know?

To see a copy of the Muskham

Magazine in colour see

www.northmuskhamvillage.co.uk

Or

www.riversideparishes.co.uk



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The picture of snowdrops on the front cover of February's magazine proved to be very appropriate. On my daily walks with Mostyn, our black labrador, around our local villages I have been delighted to see many patches of this beautiful early spring flower. One place I do not see this delightful harbinger of spring, despite numerous attempts, is our front garden.

As a child growing up beside, what is now called Lagan Valley Regional Park, just south of Belfast City, we used to see banks and banks of primroses at this time of year. I have only found one place during our walks with a very small clump of primroses. I wonder what it is we have to do to encourage them to thrive once more?

As I walk, I see the long stalks, with the slimline capsules at the top, promising the yellow heads of daffodils. Hence the picture of daffodils on this edition's front cover. Indeed in some sunny spots the heads have already burst into life. I can only agree with Wordsworth's sentiments when he wrote

'I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils;'

(He clearly did not have a black labrador with him at the time !!)

Apparently, there is some dispute as to whether Dorothy, Wordsworth's sister was the true source of this description.

There are a couple of new features in this month's edition. I interview one of our readers finding out about their life and I start with Jenny Bartlett. Jane Southey one of readers from Bathley has prepared a Nature Watch article for us.. Both women have so much to share that I have needed to use my editor's pen for this printed version. You can read their full articles in the online version of the magazine. www.northmuskhamvillage.co.uk or www.riversideparishes.co.uk

Will March be true to its adage?

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

With so many human impacts on our climate resulting in change I won't be betting on it. To our Welsh readers, Happy St David's Day and to our Irish readers.

Happy St Patrick's Day Susan Twemlow

South Muskham and Little Carlton Parish Council Meeting January 2025

The Parish Council doesn't meet in December, so the 15th January 2025 was our first meeting for two months.

Neighbourhood Plan

Members considered a request from the North Muskham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to join forces with North Muskham in producing a Neighbourhood Plan for South Muskham & Little Carlton.

A neighbourhood plan can help communities decide where new homes, shops, and businesses should be built, and what they should look like. It can also help protect green spaces and determine what infrastructure is needed.

After discussion, the Chair proposed, and it was agreed that:

the Parish Council joins with North Muskham in producing a Neighbourhood Plan

South Muskham & Little Carlton Parish Councils retain its parish boundary

a request be put out in the community for volunteers to come forward to help with development of the plan

The Parish Council will be seeking a team of committed volunteers to assist it with a neighbourhood plan. Please contact the Clerk if you would be able to offer your time in helping with the process. Contact details are at the bottom of the article.

2025-26 Budget

The draft 2025-26 budget shows projected expenditure of £16,077 against income of £13,917. Members noted that there would be a requirement for professional services in relation to retaining a Planning Consultant through the Joint Parishes Action Group relating to the GNR Solar Park. After discussion, it was agreed that an increase of 2% be applied which would give a Precept of £13,922 and a Band D rate of £71.77.

Beckitt Field

The Public Space Protection Order in relation to the Dog Control Order for Beckitt Field has now been changed. Dogs were now allowed on Beckitt Field but were required to be on a lead. New signage is being sourced to inform residents of the change.

GNR Solar Park

The closing date for responses to the Phase 2 Community Consultation was 20th February 2025. The Parish Council has submitted a response and has also been part of the joint response through the Joint Parishes Action Group.

Details of the Parish Council's response can be found on the website.

Should you need to contact the Parish Council please either email Jayne at clerk@smlcpc.org or call her on 07946 601364.

Full minutes can be found on our website www.smlcpc.org

Soul Food

I'm a massive Michael McIntyre fan. Actually, I met him whilst filming a never-aired episode of the Wheel (I don't know why it never aired but I didn't win anyway and it was fun to see how it all worked!) I've also been to see him live in Nottingham. One of my favourite routines of his is where he observes the way that Christians love to eat with every festival. Other religions starve themselves but we like to assign food items to every festival - it's hilarious!



Even when Jesus goes into the wilderness and fasts for forty days we mark the beginning with a load of pancakes (Pancake Day) and the end with a load of chocolate eggs (Easter)! But it did get me thinking about nourishment. Jesus said, whilst in the wilderness (the period marked by the six weeks prior to Easter, called 'Lent') 'Humanity does not live by bread alone.' So what do we live by?

I think it's true. Sure we would die without physical food, nutrition, but we need so much more. We need also to feed our souls. It's by feeding our souls that we truly live. We feed our souls in many ways and each of us will have a different diet, different staples that keep us going, different favourites and perhaps some things that feed others we won't enjoy (just like physical food!)

Some examples of what feeds our soul could be: friendship, music, literature or rest and recreation. What do you do when your soul is hungry? What recharges your batteries? How do you replenish your life reserves?

This lent and into Easter, in the Methodist Church nationally, we are reflecting on our 'Soul Food'. As Methodists historically we've always been a community nourished by powerful songs of faith, prayers that draw from rich Christian tradition and modern life, and preaching that speaks meaningfully to today's world with depth and integrity. We've also always tried to provide a place of warm fellowship, a "home away from home", committed to justice, peace and forgiveness. That's what the church, at is best, is - or certainly should be.

Perhaps you'd like to join us on that journey. Each week we'll take a different theme, beginning on Ash Wednesday (the official beginning of Lent - it's the day after 'Shrove Tuesday' or Pancake Day!) We can provide you with several things each week, by email. On Monday it will be a recipe video using easily available ingredients. We encourage you to cook and share this with your community. Each Tuesday will be a short Bible study video, with discussion on questions from a Bible focus. Wednesdays will bring a craft video, perfect for doing at home or in a group setting. Thursdays have an inspiring story about how the people in Churches and they partners work to ensure nourishment and care for all. Each Friday we'll send you a reflection on a classic soul song, revealing the good news within its lyrics. And on a Saturday there'll be 'Soul Food' a magazine-style video show, featuring a panel sharing highlights of the week and showcasing photos from across the Church.

You don't need to be a Methodist, a church-goer or even a believer to participate - it's just something a little different for you to engage in (and you can always pick and choose day by day what you want to engage with!) Then, of course, each Sunday you'd be welcome to join us at church where the journey through Lent will continue (though there's no obligation to even leave the house if you don't want to).

If you're interested you can sign up to the email using this link and can find more details there: https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/. If you do, I'd love to hear what you think of it!

Happy Easter when it comes and in the meantime may God Bless you and feed you!

Rev Peter Hibberts, Minister in the Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit

newakandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk

peter.hibberts@methopdist.org.uk; 01636 812166; 07561 665585

Thank You

The Wine Tasting event raised £737.32 for St. Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham.

Many thanks to everyone involved by either attending or helping with the organisation of this event.

Josh from Waitrose explained their wines that are listed below.

Wine Tasting Friday 7th February 2025

Fizz

Cuvee Royale Crémant £9.99 usually £13.99 No 1 Castillo Cava. £8.99 usually £11.99

White Wine

Eccelsa Vermentino. £9.99

Gorgeous Georgia £7.99 usually £9.99

Red Wine

Loved and Found Castelao £8.99 Beronia Rioja Reserva. £17

'Unclutter' or 'declutter'?

'Is there a difference? Dictionaries tell us that Decluttering is 'the removing of clutter' while uncluttering is just 'tidying up',



So uncluttering is just tidying the papers on my desk into neat piles – while decluttering means getting rid of the piles altogether by throwing them in the waste paper basket.

Ash Wednesday this year is March 5th which means that the pancakes of Shrove Tuesday are the day before. Shrove Tuesday used to be the day for decluttering your house and getting rid of the unused flour and milk that had been hanging round too long – in modern times getting rid of things that have been in the freezer for longer than you can remember.

Uncluttering is superficial – moving things from one place to another – while decluttering is more thorough: getting rid of the stuff.

Lent is a time for looking in the mirror ad seeing what needs changing. Not just superficial but deep down. It is not just a matter of eating less chocolate it's a time for decluttering.

We can begin with possessions.

Have we any clothes which someone else would be glad of? As we look around our house is there anything that can be given to a charity like the Beaumond House shops in Southwell or near Asda in Newark?

I seem to have accumulated lots of bits and pieces I never even glance at. Forgotten presents ... little things we liked at the time ... old hobbies I'm no longer interested in. Better to get rid of them so that other people can enjoy them.

And so on and so on ... and then start on the garage!

But there are other, deeper uncluttering to do. Old habits best discarded, old bitternesses repented of, former prejudices repented of.

And then the deepest level of all – our relationship with our Maker and our Saviour. That often needs decluttering of all the things which have come to stand between us and our God. I find it does not get better as I get older. It used to be the sheer busyness of life which meant I was not as close to God as I used to be. But now with age when I have more time, I find that mere laziness makes God more distant – what used to be called 'Sloth'. Each of us has our own heap of stuff which needs to be cleared – ask God what it is – and then obey!

I hope you enjoy your Shrove Tuesday pancakes. Then we can use the 40 days of Lent for decluttering!

God bless +John

Summary of North Muskham Parish Council Meeting- 10th February 2025

- 1.One planning application was considered but a decision deferred pending an extension of time. In the event of no extension being granted, the PC would object to the application.
- 2. The progress on the compilation of the Neighbourhood Plan was noted 3. It was noted that a number of vacant allotment plots remain available for uptake. The allotments conditions of tenure will be amended prohibiting the use of tyres.
- 4.A planning consultant had been jointly commissioned by JPAG (Joint Parish Council Action Group) to assist the Parish Council to submit a robust response to the GNR solar proposals including the stage 2 statutory consultation.
- 5. The significant progress with the Council's Emergency Plan for the village was noted including training for flood wardens and emergency equipment and a number of villagers had volunteered to assist in an emergency.
- 6. Personnel subcommittee to be formed
- 7. The PC to organise a Victory in Europe 80th Anniversary event on the 8th May including The Ferry for a beacon.
- 8. The playground resurfacing has been delayed by the bad weather. The PC will meet 50% of the costs of a new picnic bench and plinth to be sited at the playground
- 9. Progress was reported on the potential new building at the MRCC for a cafe/hub and a survey was in circulation to determine support for such.

Ian Harrison Chair

From the Register
St Wilfrid's
South Muskham
Funeral 12 February 2025
Georgina May Hewitt



Make Time for Tea



Linda and Stephen will be holding their 15th

Make Time for Tea event

during Ovarian Cancer Awareness month.

Date: Friday 7th March 2025

Time: 2 - 5pm

Address: Emanon Cottage, Main Street, North Muskham.

Everyone is invited to come along and join us for tea, coffee and lots of homemade cakes and enjoy a good chat while catching up with old and new friends.

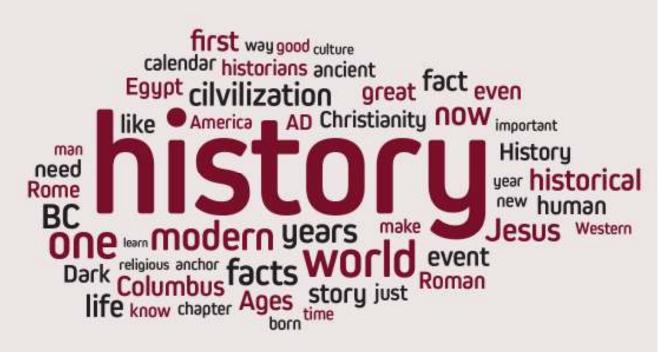
Donations of Tombola and Raffle prizes would be much appreciated please.

Many thanks for your continued support in raising funds for this very worthwhile charity. Linda and Stephen Guy









The History Group meets on 3rd Monday of the month at North Muskham Rural Community Centre. Meetings start at 7.30 usually finishing around 9pm following talk/presentation, questions, and refreshments. The group holds talks on historic events, local if possible but also those of national merit. There is a small charge of £2.50 for non members to cover costs.

Next Meeting Monday Mar 17th ... '

Edward VIII and the Abdication Crisis' by Keith Appleyard.



Do you LOYE handbags?

You are invited to



Muskham Rural Community Centre – MRCC Village Hall

The MRCC Committee would like to invite any village pensioner to come and join us for a complimentary Sunday Roast Lunch on Sunday 27 April 2025 at the MRCC.

This free event will be limited to 60 people so please register your interest to reserve your place.

If you have an elderly neighbour who you feel would like to come and join us please do let us know and we will contact them with an invitation.

Contact us to reserve your place at the dining table on 01636 343010 and press 1

Also text or call: 07542 701041 or 07789 702183

Or email: bookings@muskhamruralcc.co.uk





Muskham Rural Community Centre, Nelson Lane, North Muskham

Our centre provides the ideal venue for family celebrations, weddings, parties, sporting events, drama groups, caravan rallies and community events.

Book online at www.muskhamruralcc.co.uk/booking or email: bookings@muskhamruralcc.co.uk phone 01636 343010



Every Tuesday we host a social evening from 7pm including bingo nights, games night and our monthly Open Mic night (3rd Tuesday of the month).

Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Morning

You are warmly invited to come

and enjoy coffee and cake at

🔋 St. Wilfrid's Church,

North Muskham

10.00am until12 noon on Saturday 15th March

Future date



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St Wilfrid's Church, North and South Muskham are collection points for Newark Food Bank. If you have any contributions please leave them in church.

The items urgently needed: -

Long Life Milk, Long Life Fruit Juice, Tinned Meat e.g. Chicken or Beef Stew.

Instant Mashed Potato.

Other Items: - Toilet Rolls, Laundry Pods



regular update of specific items needed can be found on the website: https://newark.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/
If you would like items collected, please contact Ann.
Many thanks - Ann Willey, 01636 605477

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Let Love Flow



On his 80th birthday Jennie Bartlett's father gave to all the members of the family a small wooden plaque. On the plaque was carved the capital letters LLF, Let Love Flow. I think it is testament to say that this short phrase which had been the byword in his life became the byword for his eldest daughter's life too.

Jennie Bartlett was the eldest of 4 children. She had two sisters and a brother. Talking to her it became very clear that she felt a certain additional responsibility within her family being the eldest. Her father certainly looked to her in this light.

Jennie described a trip to Scotland on a family holiday. Her mother was left to look after the family and Jennie, aged about 12 years, and her father climbed the highest mountain in the UK, Ben Nevis. Not a small undertaking in the days when stout shoes and duffle coats were the dress code.

Jennie went to an Anglican boarding school (with a requirement to learn, by heart, the weekly collects) and then spent a term in Lausanne, Switzerland (learning to cook, ski and speak French) and a further term in Paris. She described being able to attend the fashion displays in the major Fashion Houses. What an amazing experience. I have always admired Jennie's dress sense and now I know something of its genesis.

When Jennie met David (that should be the title of a book) their initial plans were that David, an Oxford graduate, should enter the Civil Service. As David himself explained in an address one Sunday in Church, this was not God's plan for him.

Sometimes discernment takes the established Church a while to catch up with God's plans. David was asked to wait two years to confirm his calling from God to the ministry. During this time David taught at Warwick School. Jennie also went into teaching, having studied at Roehampton Froebel Institute. (Her teaching qualification was recently recognised as a degree). Jennie taught infants. She described the school where she did her teaching practice as having a Dickensian ethos. There were 40 children in her class at Westbourne Grove Infants School.

David trained for the Ministry at Lincoln Theological College, where they lived for two years and their elder daughter Nicola was born. Visions of *Call the Midwife* flooded my imagination when Jennie told me she had had a home birth. An option that never entered my mind when I was expecting. Andrea was born later when the family lived in Wollaton where David served his 5 year curacy.

Jennie's face literally lit up as she described the busy lives they led with

Mother and baby groups, Sunday creches, Youth Fellowship groups at their home, Young Wives, Mothers' Union and a plentiful supply of baby sitters.

Jennie also spoke of the amazing influences on her life including some nationally recognised individuals like Hazel Treadgold (World Wide President of the Mothers' Union) who was also the wife of David's training Vicar Rev'd Ernest Payne (President of the Baptist Union); her own father, Denis Webb (National Vice President of the Boys' Brigade) and also her Christian-based family upbringing, as very active members of their local Congregational Church.

David was appointed Vicar of St Mark's Woodthorpe, another vibrant and developing suburban Parish with many young families and where similar activities and groups flourished.

Jennie and David 'Let Love Flow' when first they opened their hearts to Morris who came to them on a temporary basis aged 10 months. When it became apparent his birth parents could not sustain a parenting relationship with him Morris was adopted when he was 6 years old.

When the option of having a dog was dismissed because the family lived in suburbia, the request to have a brother was acceded to and Danny arrived in the family. So, more love flowed.

The love flowed to those living on the edge of society. Jennie described how a man of the road called at the vicarage door.

It was a poignant story that brought sadness to Jennie as she recalled the sad outcome to his life despite their attempts to reach out to him.

Bishop Wakeling asked David to move to Farnsfield Parish, which included Hockerton and Kirklington. This move was not disruptive to the children's education and Jennie was able to combine the role of mother, vicar's wife with teacher. Jennie was now teaching mornings at Mountford House School on Mansfield Road.

Again, a very busy but rewarding time combining village and family life. and parish life. Jennie's skills were recognised in representing the Southwell Diocesan Mothers' Union at Central Meetings in London. Previously she had been on the Diocesan Parsonages Board.

As you can imagine family holidays were constrained by available money but a house exchange with a parish priest in Florida brought unparalleled excitement and opportunities. These included a trip to Cape Canaveral to see a rocket launch. Whilst at Farnsfield the organist was a very active member of the Royal Society of Church Music. The choir undertook a number of UK visiting tours but an exchange trip to Toronto, Canada was a standout memory. There was a pattern of rehearsals in the morning, visits to local attractions in the afternoon including Niagara Falls and a final concert in in the local Anglican Church

When David retired the generosity of the local parishes enabled David and Jennie to visit the religious sites during a tour of Turkey and Greece; a visit marked a little booklet capturing the key moments of the tour produced by a member of the congregation.

Other occasions specially marked out were a congratulations card from Her Majesty the Queen on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, an invitation to Southwell Minster when the Queen came to distribute Maundy Money, and the Buckingham Palace Garden Party where they shook hands with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The torrential rain played havoc with Jennie's hat, on that occasion, unfortunately.

Jennie has lived in her current home the longest she has lived anywhere. They are a family blessed with four children and nine grandchildren, and when they purchased their home they saw the need to knock down the wall between kitchen and dining room, to provide more entertaining space, where they have enjoyed many social times with family and friends, old and new. The family has now grown with three great-grandchildren.

Living in Newark, David was invited to do Retired Clergy duties in the Riverside Parishes. This they have enjoyed hugely, making very good new friends."



On Jennie's 80 birthday she distributed heart shaped pebbles painted with the letters LLF to the members of her family. Perhaps we too should embrace LLF in our lives too.

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.

A pun is the lowest form of humour - unless you thought of it yourself.

Based on my calculations, I can afford to retire five years after I die.

Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on, and still everybody rushes to get a piece.

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

Muskham Luncheon Club - Serving up fun!

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"This is the most wonderful place to come for both company and amazing food provided by the kindest of helpers, " comments Marie!

"I look forward to joining lots of lovely people. Kitchen helpers are amazing, looking after us extremely well," writes June!

The Luncheon Club was started in 1991 by a group of volunteers. The aim was to provide a place for senior, local residents to meet every week for a chat and a bite to eat. It continues today. It is still a great place to come to catch up with friends and make new ones.

*There are currently 21 members who enjoy a hot, two course meal, *followed by coffee, tea and a biscuit. They also love to celebrate birthdays *and, of course, special occasions.

A typical menu: Roast Pork, apple sauce, stuffing Roast & Mashed potatoes Carrots, peas, broccoli, gravy

Sticky toffee pudding & custard Coffee/tea & biscuit

£7.50

* Jenny comments, " If I was Egon Ronay I would give them 5 stars for * excellent food, beautifully presented, in such friendly company with a lovely raffle thrown in!"

** All the meats, roast potatoes and desserts are ready prepared by Notts ** County Council Meals Service. Our helpers cook fresh mashed potatoes ** and carrots and any frozen vegetables ordered. All foods are cooked in a 5 ** star, hygiene regulated kitchen at the Muskham Rural Community Centre. ** The helpers try to cater for all allergies and special diets, when required to ** do so.

**We currently have just 3 places vacant, but, if you would like to give us a try **
** on Mondays 12 noon till 2.00pm at the MRCC, please call me, Peggy Buck, **

Mobile: 07761463830 or email: peggybuck@hotmail.com

☆ Finally, as Ursula comments:

**

*

"Monday Luncheon Club is well worth a visit! Come along and join us!"

Church of England Services Holy Week and Easter Only April Services will be in full in April's Magazine

Monday 14th April	Night Prayer	7pm
		St Wilfrid's
		North Muskham
Tuesday 15th April	Night Prayer	7pm
		St Wilfrid's Kelham
Wednesday 16th	Night Prayer	7pm St Michael and All
April		Angels Averham
Thursday 17th April	Holy Communion	7pm St Wilfrid's
	Tenebrae	South Muskham
Friday 18th April	Hot Cross Bun	10.00am
		St Wilfrid's
		North Muskham
Friday 18th April	Stations of the	2.00pm St Michael
	Cross	and All Angels
		Averham
Saturday 19th April	Service of Light	7.00pm
		St Wilfrid's
		South Muskham
Sunday 20th April	Riverbank Service	7.30am by
	Holy Communion	The Muskham Ferry
Sunday 20th April	Easter Sunday	9.30am
	Holy Communion	St Wilfrid's
		South Muskham

Church of England Services

Sunday	St Wilfrid's	Worship Service
2nd March 9.30	North Muskham	
Wednesday 5th March	St Wilfrid's	Ash Wednesday
7.00pm	South Muskham	
Sunday	St Wilfrid's	Holy Communion
9th March 9.30am	South Muskham	
Sunday 9th March 4.00pm	St Michael's and All Angels Averham	dantital
Sunday	St Wilfrid's	Morning Prayer
16th March 9.30	Kelham	
Sunday 16th March 3.00pm	St Wilfrid's North Muskham	- Transfer
Sunday	St Michael's and All	Holy Communion
23rd March 9.30	Angels Averham	
Sunday	St Wilfrid's	Holy Communion



Thursday Evening Prayer 6pm
via Microsoft Teams
Please contact
Philip Staniforth for the Teams
Link

philip@stanca.co.uk

The **Methodist** Church

Methodist Church Services				
Sunday 2nd March	Café Church Rev D Bonny	2.00pm		
Sunday 9th March	Rev K Hart	10.30am		
Sunday 16th March	Café Church Rev G Hall	2.00pm		
Sunday 23rd March	Mrs J Winnington	10.30am		
Sunday 30th March	Café Church Rev P Hibberts	2.00pm		
Sunday 6th April	Café Church Rev P Hibberts	2.00pm		



Informal, relaxed and friendly worship with music, discussion and prayer. You'll find a warm welcome, an engaging experience and tea and cake in our café room.
All welcome.

Garden Wildlife Support

The winter isn't over and wildlife can still use your help!!

Bird watching is an easy way to enjoy wildlife from the comfort of your own home. You don't need a big garden to enjoy wildlife and with the introduction of feeders and water you can encourage birds and other wildlife into your garden, even if you only have a paved area or a balcony.

There is a huge array of bird feeders to buy, and you can also make your own feeder for example by using a milk carton or hanging a chicken wire box for bread slices. Over the years one of my most successful bird feeders was a tubular seed feeder attached to our kitchen window with a suction cap. My kids enjoyed watching blue tits feed a few feet away from the breakfast table!!

It can take birds a few days to find a feeding station so be patient and if your feeder is close to the house, then try to minimise disturbance near that until they get used to its presence.

Once you establish a feeding point replenish it regularly. By offering a range of food you can cater for a range of species. Don't feed table scraps especially on the ground as these can attract rats.

Cake, bread and biscuit crumbs are suitable and fat pieces, popcorn and fatty bacon rind hung up in a tree will provide a good energy source. There are plenty of good bird food sources for sale on-line and in local shops. Food quality varies quite a lot and if you buy from a provider who is a conservation charity such as RSPB (https://shopping.rspb.org.uk/bird-food) or a local farm dedicated to produce high quality bird food that also contributes to nature conservation such as Vine House Farm (https://www.vinehousefarm.co.uk) then you can be assured of good quality and also making a contribution to nature conservation.

Food should be suitable for birds and be free from mould and fungus. Birds are susceptible to disease as well. **Regular cleaning of feeders helps to minimise disease.** Evidence from organisations such as RSPB indicate that bird tables can act as disease sources and so these are no longer recommended.

While we groan a bit and reach for a coat when rain is forecast, wildlife needs natural and accessible water sources right through the year and so rain is important for wildlife. Unfortunately, rain doesn't always come regularly enough to ensure an easy water supply for wildlife and that's where we can help.

Clean water for birds should ideally be provided in a shallow dish off the ground, but you can even use a plastic washing up bowl on the ground provide you put a brick in there so any wildlife such as small mammals or hedgehogs can safely escape drowning. Birds will also use the brick to perch from to feed and wash. Make sure you clean out and replenish your wildlife drinker regularly. You could even consider sinking your washing up bowl or an old ceramic sink into the ground and popping a few water plants in there to create your own garden pond. I have four wildlife drinkers around the garden, and they all seem to be popular. Bees come and use my shallow drinkers on warmer days.

As we are approaching spring, we can also think about helping nesting birds. There are a range of bird and bat boxes on the market, and you can also make your own boxes. Any box needs to have access for annual cleaning by you. Organisations such as RSPB Our ultimate guide to nestboxes and British Trust for Ornithology Make a nest box | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology provide guidance on suitable places to put up a box and plans for building nest boxes.

You can put up nesting features for species such as swifts and swallows as well as the more commonly sold tit and robin boxes. A nesting feature may not be used in its first year and birds can take a while to find and choose them. Sparrows nest in colonies and I am lucky enough to have a small resident population in my very overgrown berberis bush. In April 2024 I put up a sparrow box and they didn't nest in it, but I am hopeful that it will be used this year because I have seen them inspecting it over the winter!!







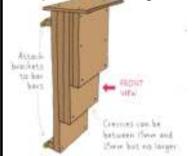
Hair dispenser for nest lining



Over the counter seed dispenser

The other thing that's good to do from late February is put out some nesting material such as old knitting wool, dog or horsehair. I save horsehair when my horse is clipped and hang it up in a dispenser and it is very popular with birds to line their nests. If you don't have a dispenser, then put clumps of material wedged into bushes and hedgerows, or you can put slits in a milk carton filled with hair and hang it up in a tree or bush.

Bats also need our help and you can also put up roost boxes based on advice given by the RSPB <u>Build a bat box</u> of the Wildlife Trust <u>How to build a bat box</u> <u>The Wildlife Trusts</u>. Make sure your box is two to three metres above the ground in a place which gets some sun for part of the day.



Bat box Image courtesy of Wildlife Trust

Happy wildlife watching !!

Jane Southey Ecologist

With Mothering Sunday approaching, the following may amuse you!!

PARENT'S DICTIONARY

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to also get up at 2 a.m.

Defense: What you'd better have around de garden if you're going to let de children play outside.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you just on the edge of financial disaster.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children.





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Smile Lines

Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?" "Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

Beware of these contagious diseases in church

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

Ear Frequency Destruction: Caused by sitting near the loudspeaker when the minister is singing full volume, off-key, etc., into the microphone.

Sermonic Throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

Double Auricular Clearance: A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

Accelerated Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

Retarded Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

Theexits: A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

Church Meeting Paralysis: This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.

New meanings

Dogma - a puppy's mother

Polygon - a lost parrot

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.



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	Daytime Regular Events	Evenir	ng Regular Events			
	9-10:30am Baby & Toddler Drop-In (termtime) Jess Cox - 07718 069763 & Facebook	Clair	7:00-8:00pm – Zumba Claire: 07891 820606 Follow Claireszumbawhoopwhoop			
Mon	From 12:30 Lunch Club 07761 463830 or peggybuck@hotmail.com	(every 3 Bryon H	7:30pm - History Group (every 3 rd Mon of the month) <i>Bryon Harlow 01636 918847</i> <i>bryonharlow45</i> @ <i>talktalk.net</i>			
Tues	10:00 - 12:00 Short Mat Bowls Just turn up. Not on in school holidays.	Sarah i hello@w 7:30-9:00pm - 7:00-10:00pm	6:30 to 7:30pm - Wild Earth Yoga Sarah Pike 07789 986558 hello@wild-earth-yoga.co.uk 7:30-9:00pm - Table Tennis Just turn up 7:00-10:00pm – Muskham Social in Bar (3 rd Tues of month Open Mic Night)			
Weds	10:00-12:00 – Muskham Craft Group <i>Marian: 07796 935002</i> <i>jmarion89@yahoo.co.uk</i>					
Thurs	10:00 - 12:00 Art Group Jim Wishart - 07831 183523		7:00-8:00pm – Zumba Claire: 07891 820606			
Fri	9:30am - Seated Movement class Rhuel: rhueliosamuels@gmail.com 07477820043	(0	7:00-8:00pm - Reiki Soundbath (one per month) Emily - www.insightstowellbeing.co.uk			
Week days	Muskham Out of School Club & Muskham Preschool as above	5:00-7:30pm - Cougars Football Cougars train & play at our Playing Fields and have Junior Football Teams for U7, U9, U11 and U13				
OFSTED Registered Childcare Facilities						
North Muskham Preschool Manager: Helen Walters 07714 799408		2 – 4 years olds	Monday to Friday (Term Time) 8:30am – 4pm			
Muskham Out of School Club Breakfast Club & After School Club School Holidays & Inset Days Manager: Helen Waterfield 07944 467076		4 – 14 years olds	Monday to Friday (Term Time) 7:30-8:50am & 3:30- 6:00pm			
Muskham Out of School – Holiday Club Manager: Helen Waterfield 07944 467076		4 – 14 years olds	Monday to Friday (Holidays) 8:00-5:30pm			

Wordsearch for March

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage.

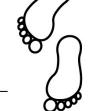
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Lent spiritual easter preparation fasting prayer desert self-denial repentance seeking finding growing mothers love care nurture learning teaching disciples worldwide flowers thankyou nursing family



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?



Luke 4:1

Mouse Makes

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

READ

the story in Luke 4:1-13

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12

What happened after the temptation of Jesus? see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED **WILDERNESS** DESERT **TEMPTATIONS** DAYS • DEVIL

HUNGRY • SON STONE • ROCK KINGDOMS

WORLD • GLORY WRITTEN

SCRIPTURE

WORSHIP • ONLY

THROW • DOWN

JUMP • ANGELS

HANDS • HOLD

LIFT • FOOT

SERVE • LORD JERUSALEM **HIGH • TEMPLE**

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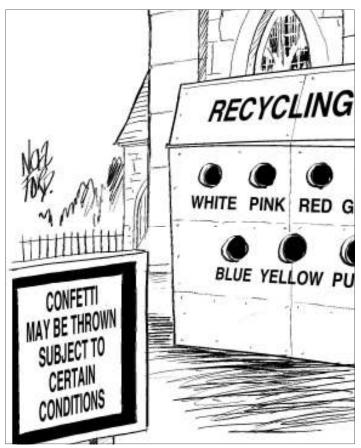
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Theme Mothers
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Future date April TBA

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